BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1901.

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ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December, 1901.

GENTLEMEN,

In my last year's Report, I gave the figures 7381 as the Population of the Borough. This I obtained by the excess of Births over Deaths, and not reckoning on there being a great migration from the town. According to the Census, the Population of the Borough is only 6898, being a very slight increase for the last ten years, the amount being only 229. The Births during the last ten years amounting to 1777, and the Deaths at all ages to 979. According to instructions received, the figures given in the tables last year must be corrected.

	Population.	Births.	Rate per 1000.	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1000.	Deaths at all Ages.	Rate per 1000
1891.	6669	193	30	25	129·5	99	15
1892.	6690	187	27·9	20	106·9	101	15·1
1893.	6710	165	24·5	19	115·1	99	14·6
1894.	6730	157	23·3	17	108·2	103	15·3
1895.	6750	172	25·4	25	145·3	87	12·8
1896.	6770	174	25·7	22	126·4	89	13·1
1897.	6795	185	27·2	22	118·9	100	14·7
1898.	6820	177	26	23	130	108	15·8
1899.	6845	185	27	25	135·1	102	14·9
1900.	6870	182	26·3	20	109·8	91	13·2
1901.	6898	175	25·3	16	91·4	86	12·4

The Deaths during the year 1901 were 86—45 Males and 41 Females. The Births for the same period being 175—94 Males and 81 Females.

	Deaths.		Births.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
January ...	4	4	8	7
February ...	5	3	6	2
March ...	5	4	9	7
April ...	8	4	10	7
May ...	4	3	6	6
June ...	4	4	6	11
July ...	0	2	6	6
August ...	1	3	10	4
September ...	3	5	10	6
October ...	3	2	6	11
November ...	3	2	7	4
December ...	5	5	10	10
	45	41=86	94	81=175

During the year there have been notified the following Infectious Diseases, viz :—Scarlet Fever 9 ; Diphtheria 9 ; Erysipelas 5 ; and Typhoid 2.

Typhoid.—One in Garfield Cottages, in January, the other in St. George's Road, in February, both traceable to the eating of Mussels.

Scarlet Fever occurred in January in Ellough Road ; March, in Kemp's Lane ; April, in Smallgate Street ; May, in Blyburgate Street ; July, in Exchange Square ; and then the Borough is free till December, when four cases crop up, two in Blyburgate Street, and two in Ingate Street.

Diphtheria occurred in September in Ingate Road, Ingate Street, Peddar's Lane, and White Lion Street ; most of these are traceable to a defect in the Board Infant School w.c. arrangement, which has been remedied ; three cases in December in Ingate Street.

Erysipelas occurred in Denmark Road, Pleasant Place, Swine's Green, and Newgate Street, this last was Traumatic.

In regard to the Notification of Infectious Diseases, I must call the attention of Parents and Guardians of children, to their responsibility in the matter, it appears to be the rule to leave to the Medical Practitioner the onus of reporting the case. That will do very well when I am in attendance as the information would be unnecessary, but when in the hurry or stress of professional engagements the matter might be overlooked or forgotten to be notified for several days, as occurred in a case of Scarlet Fever during the past year, which was not notified till ten days after the diagnosis was made, then there occurs the extra difficulty of finding a cause and perhaps of proper isolation. So far as I know there was no spread of the disease from this case, but the law requires that "the head of the family to which such inmate (in this act referred to as the Patient) belongs, and in his default the nearest relatives of the Patient present in the building or being in attendance on the Patient, and in default of any such person, the occupier of the building shall as soon as he becomes aware that the Patient is suffering from an Infectious Disease to which this act applies, send notice thereof to the Medical Officer of Health of the District." Every person required by this Section to give notice or certificate who fails to give the same shall be liable on a summary conviction in manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts to a fine not exceeding Forty Shillings.

I find by the Instructions to Medical Officers of Health as to their Reports that they should specifically report on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act. I must plead my ignorance as to what is required of me, for I do not remember having had this

duty brought to my notice, but so far as my knowledge extends I would suggest that Incandescent Burners should be used in many places, as by that means less carbon would contaminate the air of the Workshop.

The following are the causes of deaths amongst children under one year :—

Premature Birth	3
Tabes Mesenterica	2
Bronchitis	3
Convulsions	2
Eczema	1
Pericarditis	1
Disease of Liver and Jaundice ...	1
Enteritis	1

There were two Inquests held by the Coroner.

Above that age the following diseases are responsible for the number of deaths placed opposite to them :—

Cancer	7
Enteritis	1
Measles	2
Whooping Cough	2
Pneumonia	3
Bronchitis	2
Influenza	7
Heart Disease	7
Disease of Liver	2
Phthisis	8
Apoplexy	3

There were seven deaths in the Hospital, and five enquiries by the Coroner.

The Scavenging is satisfactorily performed.

The Water Supply is good, but occasionally has been rather turbid.

Mr. Dowson and Mr. Clifford Smith have kindly helped me with the Temperature and Rainfall respectively of past year.

RAINFALL IN 1901.

	Total Depth. Inches.	Greatest fall in 24 hours. Depth.	Date.	Number of Days on which ·01 or more fell
January ...	0·45	·09	27th	12
February ...	1·59	·29	21st	14
March ...	2·10	·35	3rd	18
April ...	2·40	·52	3rd	15
May ...	1·19	·70	7th	9
June ...	2·23	·47	21st	12
July ...	0·95	·28	1st	8
August ...	0·95	·29	14th	9
September ...	1·00	·29	17th	13
October ...	1·90	·50	5th	19
November ...	1·86	·76	13th	19
December ...	4·60	1·85	12th	21
	21·22			169

A very dry year, the only heavy rainfall being in December. Severe thunderstorms in January, February and March, but not accompanied by heavy rain. I note a fog in August, and fogs very prevalent during the last months of the year. Hot dry summer, corn crops deficient in Suffolk.

TEMPERATURE FOR 1901.

	Mean Temp.	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.
June ...	56·8	78·	39·
July ...	62·5	82·	44·
August ...	66·9	81·	42·

I enclose the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Yours truly,

W. T. McCOMB.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector of the Borough of Beccles for the year ending on the 3rd day of October, 1901.

Dairies and Cowkeepers' premises have been satisfactorily kept. There are 27 Cowkeepers and about 214 Cows.

There are 10 registered Slaughter Houses

There are 4 registered Gunpowder premises, inclusive of two for Fireworks.

There are 3 Dealers in Benzoline and 9 in Paraffin.

One common Lodging House.

All the above have been periodically inspected and reported on at Sanitary Meetings.

Nine notices were sent out by the Town Clerk relating to Water supply and Sanitary requirements.

Two summonses were taken out for non-compliance which had the effect of the work being done.

Nineteen notices were sent out by the Inspector requesting abatement of Nuisances.

Seventy-two cases were brought under the notice of the Sanitary Committee.

ALFRED G. LOVE,

Sanitary Inspector.

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